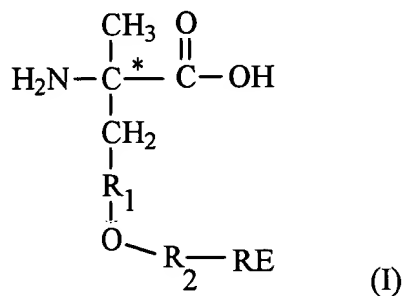


1. (Once Amended)
acceptable salt thereof:

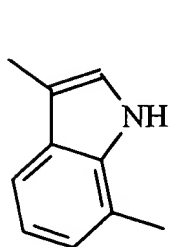
A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically



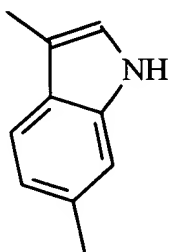
wherein

the C marked with an asterisk represents a chiral center and the compound is present in the L-form, the D-form or as a racemic mixture;

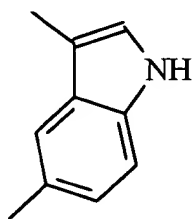
R₁ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, phenyl, and a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d)



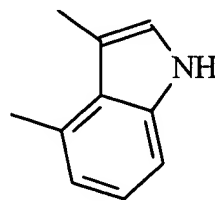
(a),



(b),



(c),

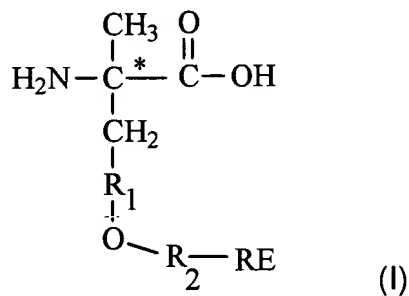


(d);

R₂ is C₁-C₇ alkyl; and

RE is selected from the group consisting of ¹²³I, ¹²⁵I and ¹⁸F.

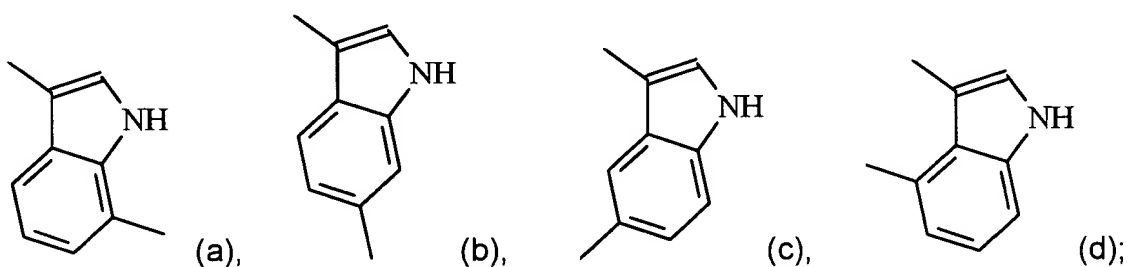
34. (Once Amended) A method of synthesizing a compound of formula (I):



wherein

the C marked with an asterisk represents a chiral center and the compound is present in the L-form, the D-form or as a racemic mixture;

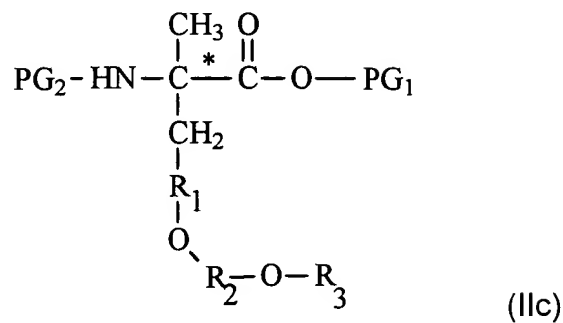
R₁ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, phenyl, and a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d)



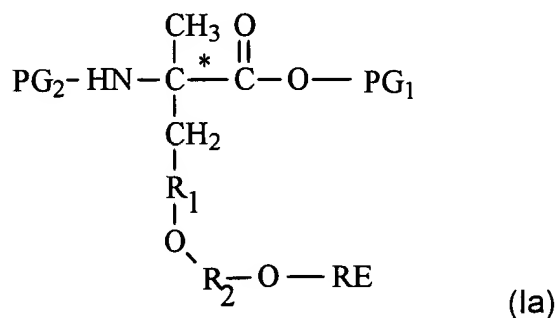
R₂ is C₁-C₇ alkyl, and

RE is selected from the group consisting of ¹²³I, ¹²⁵I and ¹⁸F,
the process comprising the following steps:

(1) reacting a compound of formula (IIc):



wherein R₁ and R₂ are the same as above, R₃ is a leaving group, PG₁ is a carboxyl protecting group and PG₂ is an amino protecting group, with a salt of RE, wherein RE is the same as above, to produce a compound of formula (Ia):

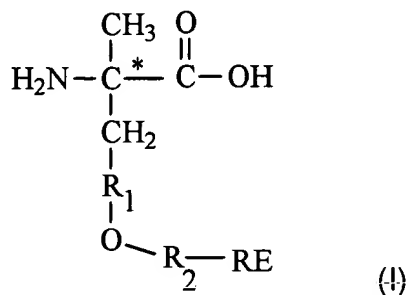


wherein R₁, R₂, RE, PG₁ and PG₂ are the same as above; and

(2) removing the protecting groups.

38. A method of imaging a tumor in a patient using positron emission tomography (PET) or single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) imaging, the method comprising

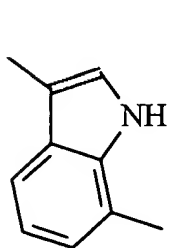
administering to the patient a tumor imaging effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



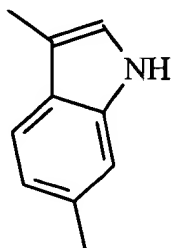
wherein

the C marked with an asterisk represents a chiral center and the compound is present in the L-form, the D-form or as a racemic mixture,

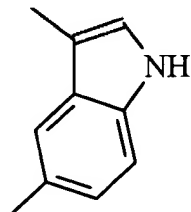
R₁ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, phenyl, and a group of formula (a), (b), (c) or (d)



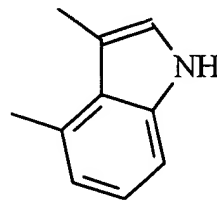
(a),



(b),



(c),



(d),

R₂ is C₁-C₇ alkyl, and

RE is selected from the group consisting of ¹²³I, ¹²⁵I and ¹⁸F; and imaging the tumor using PET or SPECT imaging.